27-7-95

There is wide gap between the public expectation and MTNL ability to delivery shifting takes very long time and is a cumbersome process.

Today over 10 Lac telephones are working under the jurisdiction of MTNL. There is quite a large number of requests for shifting of telephone from one location to another. The OBs against these requests are issued after ascertaining the genuineness of the case. This checking is essential since we get a sizeable number of cases which involve some disputes in the family or the organisation.

Once the OB is issued the telephone is provided at the new location within the stipulated period. However, in a few localities it may not be possible to shift the telephone due to non-availability of spare cable pairs. In such cases, the customers are generally kept informed about the delay.

The third party transfer also costs more than Rs. 500.00.

Similarly third party transfer is now liberalised and does not take long if all the required documents are made available.

Conversion of Metre Gauge From Manmad to Hyderabad

2222. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:
SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when the conversion of metre gauge line into broad gauge line from Manmad to Hyderabad was started;

(b) the progress made so far; and

(c) by when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Gauge conversion of Manmad-Parli Vaijnath was taken up in 1974-75. The line from Parli Vaijnath to Hyderabad via Vikarabad was already BG.

(b) and (c) The work has been completed in 1993-94.

Arrest of Wild Animals' Skin Smuggler

2223. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently arrested any wild animals' skin smuggler in Delhi as reported in the newspapers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the name of the countries in which he has sold/smuggled these skins and from where he brought these skins; and

(d) what action has been taken/or is being taken against him to stop these practices in future to kill innocent wild animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Sansar Chand a notorious illegal trader of wildlife parts and products, was arrested by the Delhi

Police on 17th July, 1995 from Bara Tooti Chowk while trying to sell one leopard skin.

(c) Sansar Chand has reportedly been acquiring wild animal skins mainly from U.P., Rajasthan and Bihar. There is no available record about his smuggling the skins outside the country.

(d) Cases have been filed against Sansar Chand in various Courts of Law in U.P. and in Delhi.

Effect of Reduction on Excise Duty on Prices of Soft Drinks

2224. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has in recent years, recommended reduction in rates of excise duty on soft drinks to the Ministry of Finance, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether there has been a withdrawal of MODVAT benefit on returnable glass bottles and of non-availability of MODVAT on plastic crates, increase in cost of essential inputs like sugar and transportation; if so, the monetary impact this had on the soft drink industry; and

(c) the basis on which the Ministry came to the conclusion that the quantum of reduction in excise duty in the 1995-96 budget, alone justified a reduction in price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir. Reduction in rates of excise duty on various processed foods including soft drinks, and packaging materials, etc. was being recommended by this Ministry keeping in view the overall development of processed food industries.

(b) Since the change over from specific duty to ad valoram duty on soft drinks in the Budget of 1994-95, MODVAT benefits on returnable glass bottles and plastic crates are not available. Price of sugar is reported to have come down in the current fiscal year from that of the previous year.

(c) While reduction of excise duty aims at development of the industry the benefits are also expected to be passed on to the consumer.

Delay in Reimbursement of Expenses to SRPF Companies

2225. SHRI SHIVAJIRAO GIRIDHAR PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the delay in reimbursement of expenses incurred for the 12 SRPF companies deputed to New Delhi for internal security from May, 1990 to April, 1993; and

(b) the reasons for delay in payment of the expenditure incurred on joint Coastal Patrolling charges amounting to Rs. 4,96,29,095 as the Central Government share?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) A bill for Rs. 11,92,57,205/- has been raised against the Delhi Police for Maharashtra Special Reserve Police Force Companies deployed in Delhi for assisting in law and order duties from 2.5.90 to 9.2.93. The bills for the remaining period have not been received by Delhi Police.

The reimbursement could not be made for want of certain documents, viz. original bills and cost statements, from the Government of Maharashtra.

Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi have now approved the payment of bills raised for the deployment of the MSRPF Companies in Delhi from 2.5.90 to 9.2.93. A request is being made for allotment of additional funds for clearing these bills.

(b) The Government of Maharashtra had claimed from the Government of